

the mercy of the market. With these changes to the Agricultural Market Transition Act, farmers will be able to spread crop sales throughout the entire season, and subsequently allow them to take advantage of higher prices.

The legislation which Senator DASCHLE has introduced leaves commodities in the hands of farmers, thereby allowing them to make their own marketing decisions for the future. I commend him for introducing this legislation, and in light of the current state of the agricultural economy, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 30, the Agricultural Market Failure Protection Act of 1999.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD the Baltimore Sun article.

The article follows.

MD. FARM INCOME DOWN 3% IN 1998; GRAIN GROWERS SUFFER BIG LOSSES, BUT POULTRY, DAIRY FARMERS DO WELL

(By Ted Shelsby)

The extra-fat paychecks of poultry farmers and dairymen last year were not enough to offset big losses by grain growers, and the state ended 1998 with a 3 percent decline in net farm income, according to preliminary estimates released yesterday by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.

Total farm income in Maryland fell \$8.2 million last year to \$265.4 million.

It was the second consecutive year that Maryland farmers have been hurt by low commodity prices and drought. Farm income last year was 26 percent lower than in 1996.

"This is going to have a serious impact on our rural economy," Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Henry A. Virts said.

"The farm equipment dealers are going to suffer. The feed dealers are going to suffer. The truck dealers, restaurants and furniture stores are going to suffer, too. Anybody who serves the farm industry is going to feel the decline."

The drop in farm profit last year was blamed primarily on low commodity prices and a summer drought that destroyed grain crops in Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

"Grain prices were down, down, down last year," said Ray Garibay, head of statistics services for the Agriculture Department, in releasing his net income estimate. He added that the prospects for prices are no better for this year as a result of large supplies of grain in storage.

But not all segments of agriculture shared in the hard times.

Garibay said that 1998 will be remembered fondly by poultry and dairy farmers.

"Last year was our best in the past 10 or 12 years," said Lewis R. Riley, an Eastern Shore chicken grower and former state agriculture secretary.

"Poultry prices stayed healthy throughout 1998, and in most cases farmers were paid a price bonus by the processors," Riley said.

He explained that the bonus, which totaled between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for his farm, is like a profit-sharing plan in which the chicken processors pay farmers above their contract price when wholesale poultry prices rise.

"It's a windfall for good prices," Riley said, "and it made 1998 a very good year for poultry growers."

State dairy farmers also benefited from record milk prices late last year due to a shortage of milk caused by weather problems in Southern California.

Ed Fry, who operates a dairy farm near Kennedyville, said farmers profited from a shortage of cheese and butter last year.

"High milk prices, coupled with low grain prices, made for a very good year for the dairy industry in general," he said.

Fry noted that the good times are coming to a halt. He said the basic formula price of milk set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture dropped 37 percent last week, and farmers will feel the bite in their milk checks beginning next month.

Grain farmers have been feeling a financial pinch for more than a year.

Melvin Baile Jr., past president of the Maryland Grain Producers Association, said corn and soybean growers were lucky to break even last year.

"Prices were off 20 percent for corn and the same for soybean," said Baile, who farms 700 acres outside New Windsor in Carroll County.

He said the double whammy of low prices and poor yields was particularly hard on Southern Maryland and Eastern Shore farms that experienced the brunt of last year's drought. ●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ROBERT B. SHIELDS, JR., USN

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Robert B. Shields, Jr., as he prepares to retire upon completion of twenty-seven years of distinguished service. It is a privilege for me to honor his many outstanding achievements and commend him for his devotion to the Navy and our great Nation.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Captain Shields is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. Upon graduation in 1972, his first sea tour was aboard the USS *Aylwin* (FF-1081) where he served as First Lieutenant and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. His second and third shipboard tours were served aboard USS *Nicholson* (DD-982) and USS *Richmond K. Turner* (CG-20). Captain Shields continued to demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities as the Executive Officer of USS *Sterett* (CG-31) and was rewarded with command of the destroyer USS *O'Bannon* (DD-987).

His most recent sea tour was as Commanding Officer of the cruiser USS *Vicksburg* (CG-69). During Captain Shield's tenure, his ship earned the Battle Efficiency "E" Award, the Ney award, and the Best Ship's Store Sales and Service Award. *Vicksburg* distinguished herself as Air Warfare Commander for the John F. Kennedy Battlegroup while deployed to the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf.

Captain Shields completed shore assignments at the Navy Postgraduate School where he earned a Masters of Science Degree in Engineering Acoustics; the Royal Navy Staff College in Greenwich, England; and in a variety of assignments in Washington, D.C. In Washington, he was assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Research, Development and Acquisition Directorate and then completed a year as a Federal Executive Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Captain Shields first came in contact with our nation's lawmakers

when he served as a Congressional Liaison Officer for surface ship programs in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. With many successful at-sea and shore tours behind him, Captain Shields' was then handpicked to serve as Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His current, and last, assignment has been with the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs where he is Deputy Chief.

Captain Shields is a dynamic and resourceful naval officer who throughout his tenure has proven to be an indispensable asset. He is a passionate advocate of the Sea Services and has been tireless in supporting the needs of the Sailors in the Fleet and their families. He understands better than anyone that they are truly the backbone of our national defense. His superior contributions and distinguished service will have long-term benefits for both the Navy and the country he so proudly served. As Captain Shields enters into his new profession, we will certainly miss him. I am proud to thank him for his service and wish him "fair winds and following seas" as he concludes his distinguished Naval career. ●

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD SCHNELLENBERGER

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my good friend Howard Schnellenberger for making University of Louisville football the success that it is, and wish him the best in his latest endeavor to build a completely new football program at Florida Atlantic University.

Howard was the Cardinal's football coach for nine years and, when he left, had re-created the program to be unlike any the University of Louisville had ever seen. Howard didn't just talk about what he wanted to accomplish at U of L, he delivered. He recruited better players, he initiated plans for a brand new state-of-the-art stadium, and most importantly he inspired a kind of spirit in the Cardinals' faculty, fans and players that they had never experienced before. It was this winning spirit that helped Howard lead Cardinals football to its present glory.

Howard believed in his team and his school, and set no meager goals for them. He wanted nothing less than to transform them from a team that hadn't had a winning season in years, to a team that would be a legitimate bowl contender. While U of L may still have some progress to make, the Cards have played in, and won, several bowl games in recent years—and for that, Howard is largely responsible.

I have no doubt that Howard will have as significant an effect on Florida Atlantic University as he had on U of L. Howard will have a chance to build this program from the ground-up—as of yet, FAU doesn't even have a team. As FAU's Director of Football Operations, Howard will hand-pick the staff and the players and mold the football program in the likeness of his previous